REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

In response to the Examiner's request, Applicants provide a legible copy of references cited in a previously-filed information disclosure statement.

Drawings

Applicants propose filing a set of formal drawings upon allowance of the present application.

Title of the Invention

In response to the Examiner's objection that the title of the invention is not sufficiently descriptive, the title is amended as indicated above to recite: "Template-driven management of telecommunications network via utilization of operations support services clients."

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-36 as being obvious in view of the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,762 of Scholl and U.S. Patent No. 5,832,503 of Malik.

Scholl discloses a web-based network management system in which a conventional web client can transmit a request to a web server for obtaining information, e.g., regarding a managed network. In response, the web server forwards the request to a network management gateway (NMG) that in turn parses and translates the request, converts the request into appropriate network management service requests, and forwards each requests to an appropriate managed network. The NMG converts responses to the requests received from the managed network into HTML document files and transmits them to the web server. The web server in turn sends the HTML files to the requesting web client.

Independent method claim 1 recites a method of managing telecommunications network that includes accessing an operations support services (OSS) client and opening a first connection between the OSS client and a first network management system (NMS) server. A second connection is opened through the OSS client between the first NMS server and a first

network device. The method also calls for loading a first provisioning template into the OSS client, and executing the first provisioning template to provision services within the first network device.

In the system of Scholl, a connection is not opened between the web server and a network management server. Rather, the web server communicates with the NMG, which in turn transmits the requests to the managed network. In contrast, claim 1 recites opening a first connection between the OSS client and a first network management system server. Moreover, although the NMG in the Scholl's system communicates with network management systems, it does not cause opening of a connection between a network management system (NMS) server and a network device managed by that NMS. In contrast, claim 1 recites opening a second connection through the OSS client between the first NMS server and a first network device. In other words, neither the operations performed by the web server nor those performed by the NMG in the Scholl's system anticipate the steps recited in independent method claim 1.

Moreover, Scholl does not teach or suggest loading provisioning templates in the web server or the NMG. In contrast, claim 1 recites loading a first provisioning template into the OSS client and executing the first provisioning template to provision services within the first network device.

Malik does not bridge the shortcomings of Scholl to teach the claimed invention. Although Malik discloses apparatus and methods in which templates are employed to generate configuration records associated with a network device, it does not teach or suggest a client that can communicate with a NMS server, and through which a connection can be opened between the NMS server and a network device.

Hence, claim 1 distinguishes over the combined teachings of Scholl and Malik.

Further, claims 2-16 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1, and hence incorporate the patentable features of this claim. Hence, similar to claim 1, these claims also distinguish over the combined teachings of Scholl and Malik.

Independent claim 17 recites a method of managing telecommunications networks, which includes accessing an operations support services (OSS) client, and loading a first control template into the OSS client. The first control template template is executed to establish a connection between the OSS client and a network management system (NMS) server and a second connection between the NMS server and a network device. A provisioning template can be loaded into the OSS client and executed to provision services within the network device.

The arguments presented above in connection with claim 1 apply with equal force to establish that claim 17 also distinguishes patentably over the combined teachings of Scholl and Malik. In particular, as discussed above, Scholl does not teach instructing an NMS server to establish a connection with a selected network device, much less instructing the NMS server via commands within a control template. In addition, Malik does not teach different template types, for example, a control template and a provisioning template for performing, respectively, control operations, e.g., establishing connections, and provisioning operations, e.g., setting up a SONET path.

Hence, claim 17, and claims 18-23, which depend either directly or indirectly on claim 17, are patenable over the combined teachings of Scholl and Malik.

Independent claim 24 recites a method of managing telecommunications networks by accessing an operations support services (OSS) client, loading a batch template into the OSS client, and executing the batch template.

As noted above, Scholl does not teach the use of templates in managing telecommunications networks. Further, Malik, though generally directed to use of templates for monitoring network parameters, does not disclose batch templates or their use in managing telecommunications networks.

In contrast, claim 24 expressly recites loading a batch template into the OSS client, and executing the batch template. The use of a batch template can provide a number of advantages. For example, a batch template can include many set commands for changing parameter values

followed by execute commands to provision multiple similar services within a network device, thereby eliminating the need to write, store, and keep track of multiple similar templates.

Thus, claim 24, and claims 25-36 that depend either directly or indirectly on claim 24 distinguish patentably over the combined teachings of the cited patents.

Dated: September 13, 2004   Respectfully submitted,

By_____

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